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TESTIMONY OF KEVIN KIRKEBY

EIS000140

WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR A GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY FOR THE DISPOSAL OF  
SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL AND HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE  
AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

October 19, 1999

Ely, Nevada

My name is Kevin Kirkeby and I am a member of the White Pine County Commission. I am here today to offer preliminary comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Yucca Mountain project. I will offer extensive comments at this evening's hearing. My intent this morning is to characterize the concerns I will raise later today.

White Pine County is one of ten counties designated by the Secretary of Energy as "affected" by radioactive waste management activities being proposed by the Department of Energy in Nevada. The County's repository oversight activities benefit from the input of a citizen's advisory committee. [During the past several years the White Pine County repository oversight program has sponsored independent assessments of radiological risks associated with legal weight truck transportation of spent nuclear fuel through the County. These studies have been performed by the Transportation Research Center of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. At DOE's request, copies of these studies were provided to the Department. White Pine County is concerned that DOE elected not to use the information provided by the County in preparing the Yucca Mountain DEIS. White Pine County is disturbed that DOE has elected to largely ignore issues raised by the County during scoping for the EIS.]

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In general, the issues I will voice tonight include:

- 2 [-The failure of DOE to address direct and indirect effects of legal-weight truck shipments through White Pine County, including implications for emergency first response and emergency medical services.]
- 3 [-The significance of transportation as a principal source of risk within the radioactive waste management system and the relatively modest extent to which impacts of transportation are considered within the EIS.]
- 4 [-The nearly complete lack of attention given to identification and evaluation of measures designed to mitigate impacts of spent fuel management within Nevada.]

As I will elaborate upon this evening, White Pine County will be preparing formal written comments to the Draft Yucca Mountain EIS. The County's comments will benefit from the perspectives of several County residents who have volunteered their time to review sections of the DEIS for which they have special expertise. I trust that DOE will give far more credence to the verbal and written comments of White Pine County about the adequacy of the DEIS than was demonstrated by the Department regarding suggestions provided about the suggested scope of the document.

Thank you.